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Daily News (Bowling Green, KY)

# PIC to move its offices **HQ** will be moved to Tennessee

DOUG WATERS, The Daily News, dwaters@bgdailynews.com/783-3276 Published: April 24, 2006

PIC North America, an international genetic engineering firm, is moving its corporate headquarters from Franklin to Hendersonville, Tenn., by September.

Sygen International purchased the company about two years ago and then Genus plc, a British firm, acquired the Franklin operations center in December. A \$2.8 million state grant to develop a shrimp research program with Western Kentucky University and other state institutions will not be used, according to Sen. Richie Sanders, R-Franklin, because Genus decided not to pursue it after the purchase.

Sanders said about \$80,000 of the grant was spent before the purchase, but the money has been paid back to the state.

"I think it's a loss for our state when you have that many Ph.D.s and researchers in our area," Sanders said. "We're just hopeful that we'll be able to attract another business or another company with that capability to Franklin."

**PIC** improves swine while Genus does the same with beef, according to Keith Canfield, **PIC**'s marketing director for North America.

"We're the world's largest in swine; they're the world's largest in bovine," Canfield said.

The companies have 1,200 employees in 32 countries, he said.

"There was an effort to examine how the two companies can work more effectively together," Canfield said. "This is one of the initiatives that came out of that."

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Hendersonville was chosen as the new headquarters because it's a location north of Nashville with an existing building available for lease. Also, it's close enough to Franklin for employees to still commute to work, he said.

Preserving long-term employees was important to the companies, he said.

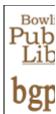
"Almost all of the employees here will be offered positions either in the Madison, Wisconsin, research labs or in the Hendersonville office facility," Canfield said.

The company is scaling down operations at the Franklin facility because it's larger than what is currently needed, according to Simpson County Judge-Executive Jim Henderson.

"It's a major blow to our local economy," Henderson said. "They've been here since the early '70s."

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